

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method of evaluating a subject for the extent, stage, or severity, of a cardiovascular complication of diabetes, the method comprising:

determining the level of PKC activity in monocytes of the subject;

optionally comparing the level of the PKC activity in monocytes of the subject with a standard, and

correlating the level of PKC activity with the extent, stage, or severity, of the cardiovascular complication of diabetes.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the diabetic complication is diabetic retinopathy.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the diabetic complication is diabetic nephropathy.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the diabetic complication is hypertension, atherosclerosis, coronary artery spasm, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, arrhythmias, ~~and~~ or cardiomyopathy.

Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the PKC activity is PKC  $\beta$  activity.

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Claim 21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject is a human.

Claim 22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject is an experimental animal.

Claims 23-43. (Canceled)